

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MEDRAD ON
2010 MALCOLM BALDRIGE NA-
TIONAL QUALITY AWARD

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize MEDRAD Incorporated as a recipient of the 2010 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award—the nation's highest presidential honor for excellence in manufacturing.

MEDRAD began in the kitchen of its founder, Dr. M. Stephen Heilman, more than forty years ago and continues to showcase western Pennsylvania as a leader in medical technology. Today, the company manufactures cutting edge medical devices used for diagnosing and treating diseases. MEDRAD's international headquarters are located in my district and it employs more than 1,400 individuals throughout the Pittsburgh region.

The company is recognized as a market leader in the United States and Europe as it continues to produce quality medical equipment for healthcare providers and patients. MEDRAD has been a pioneer in medical imaging technology, enabling doctors to get specific scans that lead to faster, more accurate treatment. The company has also been an excellent source of job creation and economic development in western Pennsylvania. It has helped the region transform itself from one dominated by the steel industry and manufacturing to an emerging medical, life-science, and technology hub.

The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recognizes exemplary companies committed to high achievement and superior performance strategies. Congress established the award in 1987 in an effort to enhance the competitiveness of U.S. businesses through recognition of model companies.

Madam Speaker, since 1988 only 86 organizations have received this award. As a previous recipient of this award in 2003, MEDRAD becomes one of only five repeat-winners in the award's 23-year history.

I would like to extend my congratulations to MEDRAD and its employees for receiving the 2010 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

CLAIMS RESOLUTION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the motion to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 4783. I applaud Chairman RAHALL for his work on this legislation and commend Speaker PELOSI and

Leader HOYER for bringing this legislation to the floor.

The Senate amendments to H.R. 4783 include, among other provisions, the funds necessary to implement settlements reached in the Pigford case brought by black farmers who were discriminated against by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, between 1983 and 1997.

These farmers were denied farm loans and related financial assistance—such as disaster assistance—or were forced to wait so long to receive such assistance that many of them suffered significant financial loss and even the foreclosure of their property.

Perhaps not surprisingly given how the USDA had already treated them, many of these farmers were subsequently unable to obtain justice from the USDA when they brought discrimination complaints to the agency.

Multiple studies of the USDA's lending process revealed the scope of the discrimination inherent in the USDA's practices, showing that the agency awarded a disproportionate portion of aid to white farmers and even to major corporations—and had made significantly larger awards to white farmers. Discrepancies were noted particularly in the provision of disaster assistance payments.

I note that according to the 2007 Census, the average annual market value of African American-owned farms was less than \$31,000. By comparison, the average value of farms owned by white farmers exceeded \$140,000—and many of the corporations that were receiving USDA payments were worth millions of dollars.

While the USDA changed its practices in the late 1990s, the agency remained unable or simply unwilling to rectify the harm its discriminatory action had caused to black farmers—leading Timothy Pigford to file a class action lawsuit seeking relief.

A settlement resolving this suit was approved in 1999—and according to the Congressional Research Service, as of September 2010, nearly 7,000 of the 22,721 farmers eligible to join this class action suit had received approved adjudications.

However, many thousands more who suffered discrimination and were eligible to receive a settlement have still not received an adjudication—or missed the deadline to submit a claim under the original settlement.

Subsequently, Congress enacted legislation permitting those who had not received a determination to petition for one in civil court. And in February of this year, the Obama administration reached a \$1.25 billion settlement of these so-called “Pigford II” claims.

The Senate amendments to H.R. 4783 include the funds necessary to pay these claims and bring closure to thousands of families who have waited for so many years for this restitution.

I note that the Senate amendments also include the funds necessary to resolve suits brought by Native Americans pertaining to the mismanagement by the Department of the Interior of natural resource royalty funds.

The finalization of these funds is a critical step that we take as a nation to show the world that we are truly committed to equality, and that we are a nation where every person is treated fairly, regardless of race, creed or color. We are also a nation where even the Federal Government is not above the law—as evidenced by the payment of reparations to those who have been harmed by the government's illegal and discriminatory acts.

I urge the adoption of the Senate amendments to H.R. 4783.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF THEODORE C. SORENSEN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Theodore C. “Ted” Sorensen, peerless wordsmith and presidential counselor, who died on October 31, 2010, only a week before the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's election.

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, Ted Sorensen always mused about the impact that Lincoln—the President and the place—had on his life. He grew up immersed in the language and lore of Lincoln, excelling at speech and debate and engaging in impassioned discussions with his father, C.A. Sorensen, Nebraska's Attorney General and a close associate of the progressive Republican Senator George Norris. By the time Ted Sorensen made his way to Washington DC after graduating with honors from the University of Nebraska and its law school, his rigorous, homespun upbringing made him the perfect partner for Kennedy.

Joining Kennedy's staff as a legislative aide only days after Kennedy's election to the Senate, Ted Sorensen remained with him until the fateful day in Dallas that forever changed America. For a decade, they were inseparable. Kennedy called Ted Sorensen his “intellectual blood bank,” and Ted often said that he could finish Kennedy's sentences for him. Together they renewed our commitment to civil rights, averted a nuclear war, and began the race to reach the stars. Their unique and enduring relationship defined a decade, and in concert they called on a nation to serve and to sacrifice.

Though shattered by loss, Ted Sorensen did not let unspeakable tragedy silence him. He wrote and lectured widely on public affairs, publishing a bestselling Kennedy biography and his own memoirs. He practiced law, aided candidates and officeholders, and mentored a younger generation of writers. As one of the last living links to the Kennedy legacy, Ted Sorensen felt a special responsibility to share the spirit of his fallen friend. After Ted's passing, Caroline Kennedy thanked him for “his guidance, his generosity of spirit and the special time he took to teach my children about

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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